

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft assessments. I'm a seven-year resident of Crested Butte South, drawn here by the vast natural surroundings and quiet setting. I enjoy all the non-motorized recreation opportunities for which Crested Butte is famous; hiking, mountain biking, all types of skiing, trail running, and backpacking. My husband and I hunt in Unit 55 every year.

I agree with your assessment in the Recreation draft assessment, Chapter 9, that an overall "spatial map of desired recreation settings is needed" for maintaining various recreational uses. I applaud your conclusions to "consider a landscape-scale strategy" while "managing for recreation". I'm especially glad to see that the "impact of noise on the landscape" is recognized as a recreation issue which needs to be addressed.

My experience living in CB South is that an overwhelming majority of recreational users, visitors as well as residents, seek non-motorized recreation in the Cement Creek drainage. However, I feel that the non-motorized recreationists in the upper Cement Creek drainage are grossly under-represented. The trail system in the Reno/Bear/Italian Mountain area of upper Cement Creek does not meet the current or projected needs of non-motorized users, especially pedestrians/equestrians. Currently, there are NO pedestrian/equestrian-only trails in this area.

The mix of motorized and non-motorized trails in upper Cement Creek should be changed to reflect the current usage and projections for future demand. I am not advocating for more trails in this area; I suggest that (at least) some of the motorized trails be converted to non-motorized to better reflect existing and projected demands for use.

When creating a landscape-scale strategy for recreation in the Cement Creek drainage, please consider the negative impacts of noise on the CB South residential community (including Cement Creek Ranch and areas north) and on present and future non-motorized recreation demands for the area. "Sharing" of a trail implies that multiple users have equal opportunity for enjoyment. Motorized uses, such as OHV's, motorcycles, and over-snow vehicles, destroy the "quiet" experience sought by non-motorized users. Increased motorized use in the Cement Creek drainage will negatively impact residential environs and non-motorized recreation in the area.

I have the following specific comments on the Recreation Draft Assessment:

1. The future allocation of motorized vs non-motorized recreation opportunities should reflect the current and projected demands for use. Chapter 4 indicates a rising national trend in demand for quiet, human-powered activities. "Nationally, the 5 activities projected to grow the most... [include] ...undeveloped skiing...mountain climbing... and equestrian activities..." (pg 25). This same section shows that motorized activities are projected to decline. Table 7 in Chapter 3 (pg. 16) indicates there are currently over three times the number of non-motorized users than motorized users in the GMUG (65% vs 17%). However, Table 9 (pg. 17) shows that the number of trails allocated to non-motorized vs motorized use is closer to being equal (59% vs 41%). **The re-allocation of trails from motorized to non-motorized to suit current and projected recreation demands should be included as a potential need for change in Chapter 9.**
2. Key Issues for Recreation on the GMUG, Trails (pg. 3): The first bullet, "Additional motorized routes and loop routes are desired by the public", is misleading. A review of the Public

Comment/Objection Reading Room shows many comments expressing the desire for **additional non-motorized** trails. Many comments request a **reduction in motorized** trails. I propose this section be revised, specifically:

- a. Delete the phrase “by the public” from each of the bullets, since the desires are voiced by a portion of the public or special interest group, not representative of the public as a whole.
 - b. Add a bullet to address public comments expressing the desire for **additional non-motorized** trails.
 - c. Add a bullet to address public comments expressing the desire to have **less motorized** trails.
3. Appendix A, Summary of Recreation Activities by Geographic Area, Gunnison Basin Geographic Area, Crested Butte (pg. 57): The last paragraph states “Mountain biking, born in Crested Butte, is slowly losing ground in popularity to dirt bike use (where such use is allowed).” This contradicts both my personal experience and other statements made in the assessment. I have personally seen a distinct increase in the number of mountain bikers and bike camps on upper Cement Creek Road during the past two summers. In addition, portions of the assessment itself appear to invalidate the statement. Refer to *Activity Preferences on the GMUG* (pg. 30), “The growing popularity of bicycling (mountain biking) is also evident, increasing from 1 percent in FY09 to approximately 6 percent in FY14” and Chapter 4, Recreation Demand and Preferences in the United States and Colorado, National Trends (pg. 25): “... motorized activities showed growth up to about 2005 but then declined, ending up toward the end of the decade at about the same level as in 2000.” **Please include a reference substantiating the statement on pg. 57, or delete the statement.**

Thank you for considering my comments. I was pleased to see the section under Chapter 6, Connecting People with Nature, Partnerships, Education, and Volunteering (pg. 39) highlighting partnerships and volunteering as key to maintaining and expanding recreation opportunities. I took part in the Paradise Cleanup around Crested Butte in October, supported by many of the local non-profit groups. Our team concentrated on the Cement Creek drainage (no surprise). I look forward to more opportunities to work with you in preserving and protecting our Forests and recreation opportunities!